

PASSENGER VESSEL ASSOCIATION

AND

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

OUTLINE OF PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

FOR

DOMESTIC PASSENGER VESSEL INDUSTRY

**Purpose and Objective of the PVA/USCG partnership**

1 The purpose of this partnership between the Passenger Vessel Association (PVA) and the United States Coast Guard (USCG) is to improve the communication and working relationship between the Coast Guard and the domestic passenger vessel industry. Its objectives, for both the PVA and USCG, are to promote passenger, personnel, and property safety within the domestic passenger vessel industry and the protection of the environment within our nation's waters. These objectives have been identified as strategic goals by PVA's leadership and are included within the Coast Guard's "M" Business Plan and performance Plan under the Government performance and Results Act (GPRA).

**Outline of the PVA/USCG partnership**

2. The government/industry partnership covered by this agreement is to establish a continuous program of cooperative, informal, consistent, structured activities that are intended to address issues of passenger, personnel and property safety, and environmental protection within the domestic passenger vessel industry. These processes are not intended to subvert the role of government regulation in establishing minimum standards necessary to ensure the protection and safety of U.S. waters, vessels, passengers and crews; nor are they intended to supplant the important role that has been and continues to be played by existing federal advisory committees to the Coast Guard (such as TSAC, NAVSAC, etc.) Rather, they are intended to complement these other government and industry functions by providing an efficient mechanism for joint Coast Guard-industry action in a results-oriented, non-regulatory environment.

## **Details of the PVA/USCG partnership**

3. The PVA and USCO agree to establish a partnership to further mutual goals of passenger, personnel and property safety and environmental protection. This partnership involves creating a partnership Action Team (PAT) comprised of government and industry members to review and act on "Opportunities for Improvement" (OFIs) received from individuals or companies within the domestic passenger vessel industry, as well as from USCG personnel. The PAT will identify those OFIs that are candidates for cooperative Coast Guard-industry attention and then set up Natural Work Groups (NWGs) to solve a problem or improve a process identified in the OFI.

4. NWGs will operate under the guidance of the PAT and conduct their work using a consistent, action and results oriented process to analyze the issues involved and recommend improvements including, as a minimum, the following steps:

- a. Define the scope of the problem or process improvement needed utilizing base line and statistical data, case studies, trend lines, etc.;
- b. Analyze the data and attempt to identify root causes of the problem;
- c. Identify solutions to the problem or improvements to the process based on analysis of available data/evidence;
- d. Identify the measure(s) by which the success of proposed solutions will be judged and check the validity of the proposed solutions by measuring initial results;
- e. Refine proposed solutions as necessary; and,
- f. Develop a NWG action plan which specifically identifies the improvement targets for submittal back to the PAT.

5. The Partnership Action Team will review the work of the NWGs to ensure that all necessary process steps have taken place, that proposed solutions and improvements are supported by the information and data, and that the proposed NWG action plan is complete, understandable and results oriented. Having validated the NWGs work, the PAT will adopt, endorse and communicate the action plan to the appropriate target audience.

## Action

6. To consummate, formalize and communicate the government/industry partnership described above, the PVA and USCG agree to undertake the following actions:

- a. The PVA and USCG will use their best efforts to promote this Partnership within their respective organizations, commencing with the execution of this agreement.
- b. The PVA and USCG will establish a Partnership Action Team by April 30, 1996.
- c. The PAT will establish by April 30, 1996, a Natural Work Group (NWG) that will focus on advancing the Streamlined Inspection Program on domestic passenger vessels.
- d. The PVA and USCG will establish additional NWGs as required to address OFIs and issues identified during meetings of the PAT.
- e. The experience and results of the PAT and NWGs relative to the objectives of this partnership will be evaluated by the PAT commencing one year from the execution of this agreement. Based on this evaluation, the PAT will recommend to the PVA and USCG whether to continue and/or expand the partnership, and to what extent the program should be expanded.

## Institution of the PVA/USCG Partnership

7. This Outline of Partnership is effective upon signature of this agreement. It is informal in nature and may be modified or terminated by either party by mutual agreement at any time. The parties pledge to act in good faith at all times and to use their best efforts to accomplish the goals, objectives and actions summarized herein.



J. C. Card  
Rear Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard  
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January 22, 1996

Date



W. R. Mosteller  
President  
Passenger Vessel  
Association

1/22/96

Date